

Agricultural job-start loan program  
(HB 2235 by Hinojosa/Anderson)

DIGEST: HB 2235 would have created an agricultural job-start program under the direction of the Department of Agriculture to provide self-employment opportunities for displaced farmers, farmworkers and low-income rural residents. The program would have included low-interest loans to low-income individuals to establish or expand small agricultural businesses.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

Programs are already in place to address the problems at which this bill was directed. The Job Training Partnership Act and university small business centers are specifically designed to assist individuals who have been displaced from agricultural work because of adverse economic conditions.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Richard Anderson's office said the programs cited in the veto message do not provide the funding that HB 2235 would have offered to displaced farmers, farmworkers and low-income rural residents to create new small businesses. The Job Training Partnership Act trains workers for jobs in other people's businesses, not for self-employment. The small business centers offer technical assistance to small businesses, but they are not generally aimed at rural areas. There is no existing program to offer small loans to displaced farmers, especially those who are unable to offer collateral. Only the job-start loan program that would have been created by HB 2235 would have provided the secondary financing necessary to enable people suffering from the poor farm economy to create their own employment opportunities.

NOTES: HB 2235 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.